LHS LIBRARY

Graduation Issue 1995

Musket

Vol. XXVIII, No. 6 | Lexington High School, Lexington, Mass. | June 4, 1995

The National Honor Society recently sponsored a blood drive in cooperation with the American Red Cross.

photo by Josh Vacanti

School Schedule Set in Stone for Next Year

by Adam Bund, Kiran Raj, and Jonathan Schwartz

The Lexington High School Faculty voted last week on a revised schedule for the '95-96 school year. The schedule eliminates homeroom, extends the school day by 20 minutes, and, as a result, increases the time spent in individual classes to 210 minutes per week.

The "Time and Learning Committee," guided by math teacher Kevin Kelly, is responsible for the proposed changes. The committee was originally created to develop a schedule to bring LHS into the 21st century. However, in the words of committee member Richard Kollen, "[the new Massachusetts State Law requiring that all students be in school for 990 hours] put us in a bind.

The "Action Plan," created by the Massachusetts Department of Education and presented by Assistant Principal Paul Brown at a March 13 faculty meeting, is divided into two separate phases. Phase one entails changes that will be made in the '95-96 school year, while phase two covers the changes that will occur in September '96.

Phase 1 of the Action Plan stipulates 990 hours of instruction should be made available to interested students for the next school year. The proposed changes for '95-96, according to Kollen, "are not likely to ruffle any feathers."

Many faculty members consider the Time and Learning Commission proposal to be the least controversial alternative, considering the challenges inherent in the new law.

This year, even the students taking a full load of 32 credits only receive a total of 930 hours of instruction per year. The average student at LHS attends class for a total of only 800 hours. In the words of one faculty member, "the profound discrepancy between the average course load of LHS students and the load required by the new law entails major difficulties."

However, the Time and Learning proposal only solves part of the problem. Phase 2 of the State Action Plan stipulates that, as of September 1996, the 990 hours will become a universal requirement. According to Kollen, the changes that must be implemented to accommodate Phase 2 are, "bound to be more controversial."

The schedule option that received the most favorable response at the faculty meeting was a 181- day "990"

Continued on page 9

Inside

Cheerleaders Axed
Due to budget cuts the cheerleading team at LHS has been cut from the athletic department. *Page 2.*

School Elections
Next year' student leaders were recently elected by the student body. *Page 3.*

Race Focus Questioned
The statements "race is a social construct"and "race does matter." are diametrically opposed. *Page 5.*

Tennis Champs
The boys' tennis team was recently crowned Middlesex League Champions. *Page 12.*

Diversity Day Unites School

by Erin Carlson

Cultural Diversity Day at LHS began early one rainy Thursday morning, May 11, 1995. Hundreds of students staggered into the stifling heat of the auditorium and the gym for a day filled with activities focusing on cultural awareness.

The program entitled "Coming Together" was arranged by the Cultural Awareness Committee at Lexington High School, consisting jointly of students and faculty "coming together" to bring a sense of diverse community to the high school.

Sophomore Jed Berger opened the ceremony by reading a moving poem entitled "The Cold Within," about the experience of racism. Superintendent Jeffrey Young followed by sharing an inspiring speech about a conversation he had

Diversity
Continued on page 2

Lanoue Will Be New LHS Principal

by Margot Minardi

For Dr. Jeffrey Young, Memorial Day was a time to look ahead. The superintendent of the Lexington Public Schools used the holiday meeting to select Philip Lanoue as the High School's new principal.

Since their names were released to the community about a month ago, Lanoue and Sidney Smith, the other finalist in the principal search, interacted with parents, teachers, and students at several open meetings at LHS. During that time, members of the Screening Committee visited both candidates at their workplaces. Although Young made the final decision, the selection process involved many individuals, who either served as formal members of the Screening Committee or informally offered their views after meeting with the candidates at one of the forums.

Lanoue is currently the principal of Burlington High School, in the largest city district in the state of Vermont. He enjoys the challenges of being a principal but wants to try working in a different setting. He was attracted to LHS by a perceived "supportive atmosphere" in Lexington and the appeal of "large school dynamics." At a recent meeting with several LHS students, Lanoue emphasized this notion of activity and transformation: "Schools need to go through a change process. It's constant."

Despite the perception of student apathy toward the selection of a new principal after only one student attended the open forum with the candidates early in May, a handful of students visited the professional library each block on May 11 and 12, when Lanoue and Smith came to answer and ask questions. Freshman Kurt Kastorf, who attended the meeting with Lanoue, commented that the new principal should engage in "more interaction with students...students should have a better idea what's going on." Lanoue responded by promising that as principal, his "door [is] always open" to parents, teachers, and students of the community. At Burlington he initiated a dialogue between students and administrators in order to renegotiate the school's open campus policy.

Junior Irene Tung, a member of the Cultural Awareness Committee, voiced concern about the lack of unity among different groups of students at LHS; other students at the meeting with Lanoue echoed her worries. Lanoue remarked that diversity is an extremely valuable yet fragile quality in schools that "takes work or it can be divisive."

"[I hope to] bring different clusters of people together around different ideas."

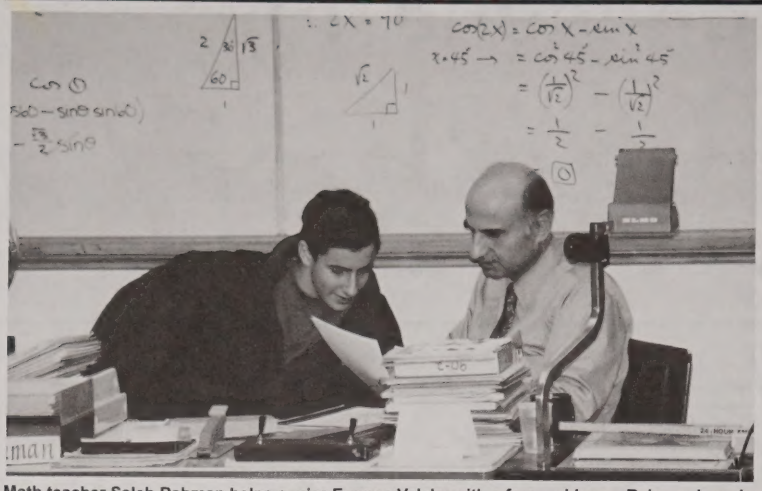
-New Principal Phillip Lanoue

At Burlington High School, where students are of varied ages, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds, he has tried to "bring different clusters of people together around different ideas." One of his most successful efforts to promote multicultural respect was a racial and ethnic harassment policy modeled after a sexual harassment policy similar to the one currently in place at LHS.

Lanoue told students that he really likes to be involved in student life. He has enjoyed playing hockey and rock-climbing with his Burlington students. What he can do with and for students at LHS, and for the school as a whole, remains to be discovered.

Math teacher Kevin Kelly is chairman of the committee which is creating a new schedule to conform to the state's 990 hour mandate.

photo by Josh Vacanti



Math teacher Saleh Rahman helps senior Eugene Valsky with a few problems. Rahman has also coached the math team to dozens of first place finishes.

photo from Musket *file*

Budget Cuts Halts Cheerleaders Cheers

by
Nick Rose and Kiran Raj

The school budget crunch goes on. With Lexingtonians already having to make tough decisions about a possible override of proposition two and a half to keep school programs going, some school activities are being cut for sure. Brian McNally, the athletic director for Lexington High School, is being forced to cut 50,000 dollars from the athletic budget. No matter where the cuts came from, someone was going to be hurt. Everybody who participates in a sport represents Lexington. As McNally said, "No matter what cut you make, it's going to be painful." The cheerleading squad, the sophomore boys basketball team, and one of the soccer teams are the casualties. The override, if passed, would increase spending by 1.2 million dollars and save many academic programs, including many teachers, aides, and the novice and Lincoln-Douglas debate programs. Even if the override occurred, however, there wouldn't be enough money for cheerleading. The only way for the cheerleading squad to be saved is for the state to increase educational aid, providing 230,000 extra dollars for Lexington. This would allow the cheerleaders and other teams to be placed on the override list, allowing voters to have the final say.

Cheerleaders are not taking this decision lying down. As soon as the cuts were announced, plans were made to block them. A petition has been circulated throughout the school and surrounding area trying to drum up support for the cheerleading squad.

> "[I'm] glad that [the school] dedicated the time to this issue."
>
> *-Assistant Principal Diane Lande*

The inclusion of cheerleading on the "hit list" has created a big stir. Many are questioning the reasons that cheerleading was singled out to be cut.

Cheerleading is the only varsity sport to be eliminated from the school athletic budget, while other, non-varsity sports continue. For many girls, cheerleading is the only varsity sport that they participate in. Cheerleading, its supporters say, is also just as much a varsity sport as any other sport is. About forty five girls try out each year to be a cheerleader, with only fifteen spots available. The girls practice constantly, usually in excess of twenty-five hours a week. What's more, the girls also contribute heavily monetarily to their sport. Besides paying the annual 125 dollar user fee that every athlete pays, the girls contribute an extra 100 dollars each for additional equipment that school can't afford to pay for. This doesn't even include the cost of the cheerleader camps which many of them attend. In any case, the money is not enough and pretty soon there will be no more pep rallies and the football sidelines will be empty forever. As junior cheerleader Allyson Cavaretta said, "Cheerleaders are the emblem, the epitome of school spirit, and they need to be there. The team will feel lonely out there, and there will be girls shut out of the sporting community."

Diversity Day Unites School

Diversity

Continued from page 1

with a Lexington High School Senior.

Then, a musical interlude followed. The Jazz ensemble took the stage with an informative and amusing performance. "Jazz is one of America's few indigenous art forms," said directory Jeffrey Leonard as he explained the creation of Jazz music, an art form that originated in New Orleans. Jazz combined the best traditions of European classical music with African Ceremonial Music.

Ms. Mariama White Hammond, a junior at the Windsor School in Boston MA, spoke to the crowd in the auditorium. Mr. Manuel J. Ferdanandez, the director of the METCO program in Wayland Public Schools spoke to the Gymnasium crowd. White-Hammond discussed the problem of racism in schools and how to begin to ameliorate the problem. She labeled it "defacto segregation" comparing the schools to the civil rights movement. She encouraged students to transcend their cliques in order to see and understand the people around them. "Everyone has stereotypes, even if you don't know that they exist" claimed White-Hammond, "but you don't have to leave it that way." Senior Tarah Dunn felt that while White-Hammond's speech was powerful, a speech by a student from Lexington, "closer to the issues," may have been more effective.

Finally, White-Hammond shared a personal experience. While she was young, she played with another child (a white girl). The little (white) girl's grandmother quickly snatched her granddaughter away from White-Hammond saying "We don't play with those people. It's not appropriate." At this point White-Hammond opened up the floor to questions from the audience.

Freshman Rasheed Townes shared his experiences growing up as a "young, black male" in Lexington. He felt that people perceived him as "dangerous and ignorant." He recollected the experience of "women snatching up their children" as he walked into a store. Townes noted that "you always have to prove you are in the right," adding that he always has to be on his best behavior.

Following the keynote speaker was a panel discussion led by students on the cultural diversity committee. Each student member related personal experiences to the more universal issue of racism as a whole. Assistant Principal Diane Lande reported being "glad that [the school] dedicated the time to this issue."

> "[I'm] glad that [the school] dedicated the time to this issue."
>
> *-Assistant Principal Diane Lande*

Closing the ceremony, the Drama and Social Issues class added humor and light, but always thought-provoking scenes to a disturbing topic. As always, the group poked fun at stereotypes and managed to avoid offending any one group by using a diverse cast and poking fun at all groups equally. Grossly exaggerated stereotypes use laughter to induce meaningful contemplation of a "heavy" subject.

"It was a lot of fun. The drama group is really good at finding the humor in a seemingly serious issue while not offending anybody," noted Dunn.

Junior Adam Bund concurred. He felt the entire presentation was worthwhile. "It really made me think about the way I behave and the things I should look for in the future. Understanding that we live in diverse times and cherishing those times is critical," Bund noted.

Junior Erika Dahlin-Lee summed up the experience. "An issue that is often ignored was finally embraced with open arms. It's about time."

News Briefs

Students Receive National Awards

Senior Brad Samuels and junior Max Wilson have received national awards in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards of 1995. Brad is a "Portfolio Nominee," one of sixteen selected from over one thousand entries. Max received a "Silver Award" for a single photograph which also received a "Gold Key" on the state level. Brad Samuels will be attending Vassar College in the fall. Both Brad and Max are students of photography instructor, Jack Zichittella.

Math Awards Banquet Held

On May 15, in the J-House cafeteria, the LHS annual Math Team Award Night was hosted by adviser and math teacher Saleh Rahman. This years math team captains were Senior Peter Jung and Junior Kenny Shei. The team finished first in the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Math Competition and also the University of Massachusetts Math Competition. Both winning teams were comprised of Jung, Shei, Jean Park and Peter Ouyang. The math team also boasted twelve finalists in the Massachusetts Association of Math Leagues Olympiad Competition. Lexington also was champion of the New England Math League, runner up in the Greater Boston Math League and runner up in the Massachusetts Math League.

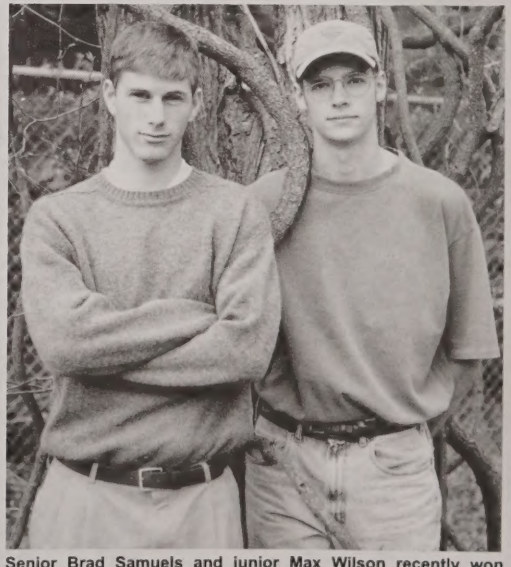
Annual Scholarships and Awards Presented

On May 30, the LHS auditorium was filled with scholarship and award winners. Diane Lande, assistant principal for special services hosted the event which featured presentations by Principal David Wilson, and Assistant Principals Paul Brown, Tony Capezza, Arthur Dulong and Lande.

The Junior Book Awards were presented to Dalia Hochman, Margot Minardi, Christopher Amar, Stefanie Berman, Karsten Schoellner, Eling Chang, Cynthia Lin, Leah Platt, Carolyn Glabe, and Jennifer O'Connor.

Debate Team Wins N.E.

Seniors Steve Lehotsky, Matt Nichols, Armen Zohrabian and Offer Egozy were recently crowned champions of the New England District of the National Forensics League. They will represent LHS at the NFL National Tournament in Fort Lauderdale, Florida later this month. Coach Leslie Phillips runs the debate program.



Senior Brad Samuels and junior Max Wilson recently won national awards in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards of 1995.

photo from Musket *file*

Junior Adam Bund tries to push his eye back into his head during a recent riveting class.

photo from Musket file

School Elects New Leaders for '95-'96

by
Margot Minardi

Nearly two hundred aspiring politicos vied for 90 positions on Senate, Class Council, and various representative committees in student elections. On May 5, Juniors, Sophomores, and First-year students voted for Senators, Class Council members and officers, School Committee representatives, Board of Appeals members, and Student Advisors to represent them for the 1995-1996 academic year.

"I could just sit back and do nothing," remarked Junior Monica Roy, a veteran class council member, "but I don't." Infected by this spirit of activism, approximately 186 students competed in this year's election, according to Junior Monica Martinez-Tamayo, a recently re-elected Senator and member of the Elections Committee. She noted that, "traditionally seniors seek more student government positions than underclass students do, and this year was no different."

An estimated 80 incoming seniors ran for office, while only 64 members of the Class of 1997 and 42 soon-to-be sophomores participated in the election. (The incoming Class of 1999 will vote for representatives at the Freshman Elections in the fall.)

Organizing the election is a more monumental task than it may seem. The Elections Committee is responsible for organizing the list of candidates, distributing packets of campaign statements to every student, tallying ballots, and posting results.

Martinez-Tamayo noted that the seemingly ubiquitous Scantron sheets are so expensive that were it not for the time saved by automation, the ballots would be counted by hand. And with science teacher David Spang stepping down from his long-time post as ranking faculty member, the Elections Committee, a standing committee of the Student-Faculty Senate, is searching for new leadership.

To further complicate matters, the elections process seems to become embroiled in annual controversies. Last year, a dispute over whether or not pairs of students could run as co-officers ended in the passage of a Senate bill allowing candidates' names to appear only individually on the ballot.

"Traditionally seniors seek more student government positions than underclass students do, and this year was not different,"

-Junior senator
Monica Martinez-Tamayo

This year, a seven-contestant race for Senior Class President prompted outcry from Senators, Class Councilors, and concerned monitors of democracy who felt that a run-off election was necessary. Neither the Senate Constitution nor the Class Council contract provided a definitive ruling in the matter, and the Class of 1996 election proceeded with a single round of voting as planned.

The most common complaint about the

Elections

Continued on page 8

FREE THIS SUMMER?

Volunteer guides are needed to greet Tourists on Lexington Common.

Earn Money or Community Service

Applications available at:
the Visitors Centre, 1875 Mass. Ave
or
by contacting S. Lawrence Whipple
15 Belfry Terrace, Lexington

Model UN Hits the Big Apple Running

by
Dafna Hochman

In late March over thirty of LHS's best and brightest traveled to New York City for four days and were thus transformed into delegates from Nigeria, Panama, and Cameroon. This exciting transformation occurred as LHS students attended the National Model United Nations Conference, fondly referred to as NHSMUN. However, this exciting and memorable trip was just the culmination of an active year in the Model Un club. Under the able leadership of faculty member Deborah Johnston, the Model Un club, in its first year at LHS, has grown rapidly. A combination of senate and debate, Model UN offers a chance to enhance one's public speaking skills, to learn about public policy and the procedures of the United Nations, and to practice the important art of negotiation and compromise, with "all the stress and time commitments...that usually surround academic subjects," says junior Steve Pawliczek.

The students are assigned a specific committee for each conference each with its own agenda and topics. The committees address such issues as nuclear disarmament, the persecution of the Bah'ai in Iran, child prostitution, and the struggle for economic reform in Sub-Saharan Africa. The students must uphold the position and the best interest of their country throughout the process. During the month preceding the conference, the club met weekly, working on position papers, writing resolutions, and simulating committee decisions.

Yet, for the students who travel to NHSMUN, their diligence paid off, for upon arriving in New York, they were greeted by 2000 other high school delegates from around the country. Sophomore Sarah Day did not realize, "what a social gathering Model UN really was."

Those who attended the opening ceremonies held in the actual General Assembly, were welcomed in person by Boutrous Boutrous Ghali, the current Secretary General of the United Nations. Other highlights of the conference included a glimpse of Newt Gingrich, the delegate dance, and the closing ceremonies, where the resolutions passed in committee were presented to the entire General Assembly.

Faculty advisor Johnston, who has led Model Un delegations from other high schools, thinks that "this experience is invaluable...the kids are exposed to a new kind of challenge as they attempt to solve the world's problems in four days."

The school orchestra recently performed its annual Pops concert, which featured the lighter side of classical music.

photo from Musket file

EPIIC Focuses on Asia-Pacific Region

by
Rebecca Swartz

Students from Lexington High School took part in a forum on the future of the Asia Pacific Region with the EPIIC Inquiry program of the Experimental College at Tufts University on April 8 and 9.

The forum was a symposium in which 24 groups from high schools in this area and beyond represented factions of the Asia-Pacific region and interacted. The 11 students who attended from LHS represented the Asian Development Bank. In preparation for the symposium the students attended meetings, read extensively, and wrote a paper about the position of the Asian Development bank.

At the symposium major topics of discussion were the fate of the Spratly Islands, relations between Asian countries, modern technological advances, the environment, and the ASEAN alliance. Representatives from each of the groups broke into subcommittees such as defense, economy, energy, environment, population, and technology.

The EPIIC program is organized by Tufts University students and professors. The Lexington High School group communicated over the course of the school year by email and in person with Sherman Teichman, director of the EPIIC program and Andrew Geller, a student at Tufts University.

Some results of the symposium were the union of North and South Korea, environmental aid from Japan to China, and the granting of observer status to Taiwan in the UN. Next year the forum will focus on the topic of religion in the Middle East. The EPIIC group of Lexington High School is currently planning the program for next year.

"I really learned a lot about the problems in Asia thanks to EPIIC,"

-Junior
Kiran Raj

Junior Kiran Raj, a member of EPIIC, enjoyed the year. "I really learned a lot about the problems in Asia thanks to EPIIC.. Although not many of the problems there make it into mainstream news it is amazing what a critical region it is," he explained.

Seniors Should Look Back at LHS Happily

With merely a few weeks left in school, most seniors are expressing their desire to move on to college or other activities. This desire is understandable and reasonable. Most seniors are ready for the new challenges and excitement that life after high school has to offer.

However, in their rush to condemn high school as boring and restrictive many seniors lose sight of the fact that they have been extremely lucky to attend LHS.

LHS allows its students a reasonable amount of freedom, gives most students an excellent public highs cool education, offers a variety of strong extracurricular activities, and gives students the chance to study along with many other motivated, interesting, and intelligent students. The opportunities that students are granted by going to the high school should not be taken for granted.

Rather than looking back on their years at LHS with a negative attitude, more seniors should examine the positive things tha make the LHS experience rewarding. Students should be thankful that they were able to study at a school like LHS that offers both freedom and a positive academic environment.

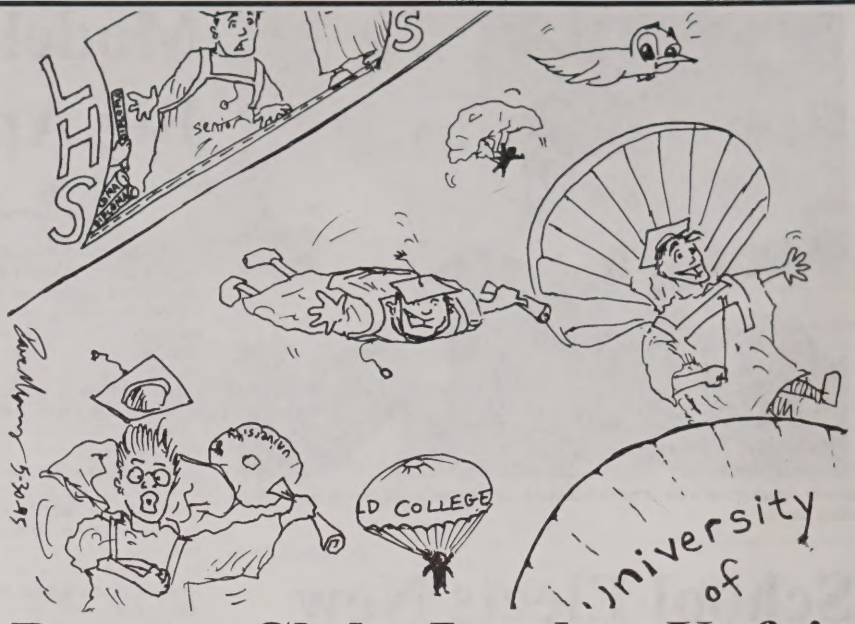
Seniors should remember that it is not LHS specifically that makes them miserable when looking ahead to life after high school. Seniors across America are feeling just as restless as those at LHS.

The institution of high school in general eventually becomes redundant and confining as people mature. Rather than looking back on their years at LHS with a negative attitude, more seniors should examine the positive things tha make the LHS experience rewarding.

LHS offers students open campus, lets them have a voice in school policy through the Student/Faculty Senate, has a comfortable lush campus and encourages student involvement in a variety of activities.

Students should be thankful that they were able to study at a school like LHS that offers both freedom and a positive academic environment. As seniors near graduation, they should keep the positive aspects of LHS in mind rather than allowing unfounded cynicism to take hold of their memories.

-Sam Handlin



Booster Clubs Lead to Unfair Distribution of Sports Money

In the May 17 issue of the Musket an unsigned letter was printed questioning the use of funds the varsity boys' basketball team had accumulated from its ticket sales and booster club. Athletic Director Brian McNally vehemently denies the factual accuracy of the assertion that ticket sales went toward funding a trip to Florida by the basketball team. Due to the controversial nature of the letter the Musket decided to withhold the name of the writer. The decision to print the letter anonymously was a mistake. However, the letter does bring up a broader issue regarding the equity of booster club activity at the High School.

The boys' basketball team took a trip to Florida. This group trip was partly paid for by the fundraising activities of its ardent booster club. Basketball is one of the few sports that regularly draws fans and has a large popular following. Although other sports also have fans, there is no denying that high school basketball gets the most attention and publicity. Donations to the team's parent-run booster club came from upwards of thirty individuals. However, other sports teams, needing money and with players equally committed to their notable sports, do not get the same level of community funding. According to Athletic Director Brian McNally it is the school's policy to treat its athletic teams equally in terms of allocated money. The school does not take a position on the fairness or equity of the booster club's finances. Whereas the organized basketball team can easily raise enough money to xsend all its players to Florida for a week at the cost of only a few hundred dollars per player, other teams have difficulty raising enough money for team jackets.

Currently, the amount of opportunity given to each individual sports team and each individual player is no longer a function of their own work ethic and dedication, but rather it is dependent on their team's popularity and their sport's popularity in the eyes of potential contributors. Although not explicitly sanctioned by the school, this hierarchy of funding is implicitly sanctioned by the continued use of booster clubs without any official school involvement.

Another problem with unregulated booster club activity is the possibility of team distortion. If a certain player's parents donate several hundred dollars to the team their child plays for, there is a distinct possibility they will expect their child to be rewarded with more playing time. A parent who just donated a chunk of money to the baseball team, for example, may not want to see his child warming the bench. The coach may feel pressure to accommodate this donation by increasing the child's playing time. In these situations, a player who works harder but whose parents are unwilling to make a large contribution to the team may have his sports experience minimized due to the obligation a coach may feel to reward a parents donation.

What is needed is some level of school regulation of booster club activity. Instead of each athletic team having its own booster club, donated money should be shared by all the teams. That way a central body would organize fundraising activities for all the teams. Instead of different teams competing against each other for donations, they would work together to maximize contributions. Another needed change is to separate booster club activity from the team's activity. For example, the wrestling team has gone out of its way to make sure the person that runs its booster club is not affiliated with any of the coaches or wrestlers on the team. In this way, the coach never finds out who gave money or the value of an individual's contributions. The booster club becomes completely autonomous.

Although the Athletic Department is completely fair in its financial dealings with its sports teams, the more popular sports end up with more money through external funding. Booster clubs organize donations from private citizens to help sponsor various activities that less popular sports teams are denied. By instituting a uniform policy regarding booster club activity the school could help level the playing field for all its teams.

Such unsigned editorials express the general opinions of the entire Musket editorial board.

We Want YOU!

Apply to be a

MUSKET EDITOR

Applications Now Available in the SAC *Musket* box

Musket

Editor-in-Chief ..... Offer J. Egozy

Layout Editor ..... Kunal G. Mehra
News Editor ..... Andrew Sung
Jason Harris
Editorials Editors ..... Sam Handlin
Kit Connolly
Features Editor ..... Erin Carlson
Amy Lowenthal
Sports Editor ..... Stefanie Berman
Copy Editor ..... Sriram Krishnamurthy
Aron Shapiro
Photography Editors ..... April Bovet
Jay Premack
Josh Vacanti
Art Editor ..... David Myung
Business Manager ..... Margot Minardi

* * *

Faculty Advisor ..... Sam Kafrissen
Printer ..... Belmont Printing Company

* * *

Reporters ..... Adam Bund, Matt Finkleman Dafna Hochman, Steven Lehotsky, Margot Minardi, Dave Myung, Phil Oliff, Steve Pawliczek, Leah Platt, Kiran Raj, Carlos Reyes, Nick Rose, J.R. Rudman, Jonathan Schwartz, Rebecca Swartz

Special Thanks to Elizabeth Goldman, Shahak Nagiel, and Anne Tucker

Copyright © 1995 Lexington High School *Musket*. All rights reserved.

The opinions expressed on these editorial pages are the views of either the *Musket* editorial board or of individual staff members. They are not necessarily a reflection of school policy, nor are they intended to mirror the ideas of every student. Therefore, *Musket* realizes its responsibility to print other opinions. Leave short, tasteful letters to the editor in the *Musket* mailbox in the LHS Student Activities Center or mail letters to the editor to: MUSKET, 251 Waltham St., Lexington, MA 02173. Only signed letters will ordinarily be printed. *Musket* reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.

Letters to the Editor

Athletic Director clarifies athletic team fund use and Florida trip

Dear Editor,

The May 17th edition of the Musket, contained an unsigned letter to the editor that defamed the high school athletic program, and boys' basketball team in particular, with several completely false statements. The author of this unsigned letter wrote it without ever having checked with either myself, basketball coach Bob Farias, or anyone else in the athletic department, high school administration or the school's central office administration regarding the accuracy of statements he or she made.

The letter stated that money made from basketball game ticket sales were used to fund the team's trip to Florida and purchase personalized warm-up suits. This is not true. Following league policy Lexington High School charges admission for football, basketball, ice hockey and wrestling contests. All money generated through these ticket sales is deposited directly into the athletic revolving account. Money in the athletic revolving account is needed to pay athletic expenses such as bust transportation, official's fees, and safety equipment for a variety of sports. Every expense paid through this account is approved by the director of business and finance and is completed through a school purchase order. All athletic department funds, whether school appropriated funds, user fee funds, or gate receipts funds are used strictly for providing for the basic needs of each and every sport.

Several teams at Lexington High School have very active parent booster clubs. These parents and friends work hard at fundraising to provide things for th players that the school cannot and does not provide. The boys' basketball parents raised the fund to buy warm-up tops for th varsity players. These warm-up tops were donated to the school for use by future varsity boys' basketball players. Parents also fundraise to provide an end of season banquet for all players in the program (seniors, juniors, sophomores, and freshmen) as well as the cheerleaders. All players and cheerleaders are given a gift at this banquet but not one cent of school funds is spent.

All of the money for the team's trip to Florida came from the players, parents, and fundraising. Each player and coach paid approximately $400 out of their own pocket for the trip. The chaperones paid for all of their own expenses for the trip and were not subsidized by basketball booster funds. This is the second year the team has gone to Florida during February vacation. The catalyst for the trip grew from the parents' intentions to do something special for last year's team following the death of Matt Santosuosso. This year's trip was an extension of that sentiment.

The boys' basketball team has the same athletic budget as the girls' basketball team, the field hockey team, the boys' band girls' lacrosse teams, and the boys' and girls' soccer teams. They are not given preferential treatment. As a matter of fact, the varsity team may be the only varsity basketball team in the state that has only one uniform, wearing their gold colored uniforms for home and away games. The junior varsity, sophomore and freshman players purchase their own uniforms.

The FY96 athletic budget was cut by $100,000. Athletic user fees will be increased to generate an additional $50,000. This means that $50,000 in cuts have had to made in the athletic program. At many schools $50,000 could be cut from the athletic budget without affecting any programs. Unfortunately the Lexington Public Schools athletic budget is a basic budget with no frills or luxuries. To reach the $50,000 level four high school teams have been cut, including the sophomore boys basketball team, as well as sixth grade sports. Each and every expenditure is carefully scrutinized and detailed record of income from user fees and gate receipts are carefully kept and frequently checked.

I was very shocked and surprised that you allowed an unsigned letter to the editor to be printed. Although my experience in journalism is limited to three years writing for my college newspaper I believe it is standard operating procedure for all newspapers not to print unsigned letters to the editor. It is even more disturbing knowing that the letter was based on untrue assumptions and caused such damage to the athletic department and school system. I have written this letter to clarify this issue and set the record straight.

Thank you..

-Brian J. McNally
Coordinator of Physical Education & Athletics
Lexington Public Schools

Kishlansky defends his editorial bashing the smoking corner

Dear Editor,

"He who endeavors to obtain distinction by ridicule. . . teaches other to practice his own arts against himself... and is doomed to suffer the same severities of scrutiny and exaggeration sporting with his failings." -Dr. Johnson

As senior Sam Handlin goes off to college, he is already well on the way to a career as a lobbiest for the American Tobacco Institute. How many times have we heard that there is no "proof" of the ill effects of cigarette smoking. For years apologists like Handlin attempted to convince the American public that nicotine was not addictive. After scientific studies refuted this claim, it was denied that there was any proven link between smoking and cancer. When hundreds of thousands of Americans who had smoked all of their lives were stricken with lung cancer, Handlin's progenitors then argued that adult Americans had the right to chose whether or not they wished to smoke. When second hand smoke proved to be as harmful as inhaling, the American Tobacco Institute launched a massive campaign to prevent laws that would consign smokers to restricted areas in public places or prohibit smoking altogether.

The criticism that my survey was unrepresentative has long been a stock argument of tobacco apologists. Is Handlin serious when he defends cigarette addiction on the grounds that it is better than heroin addiction? This would be a logical fallacy if there were any logic to it at all. Not only have thousands died, and tens of thousands suffered, but everyone pays a high price for tolerating cigarette smoking. Second hand smoke affects the innocent both directly and indirectly. Not only has the AMA has proven a direct link between second hand smoke and lung cancer, but health care costs rise for us all when smokers need special treatments, medicines, and surgery. It is those like Handlin who stand by and are either silent or apologetic that allow this national disgrace to continue. Who's more to blame, the addicts or their defenders?

-Matt Kishlansky
Class of 1996

Focus on Race and Ethnicity Questioned

At the diversity day forum on Thursday May 11, I heard the term "race is a social construct" used several times. This comment would then be followed by "but race does matter." The two statements are diametrically opposed; either race is critical to one's identity, or it is not. The consensus of the forum seemed to be that race does matter. The speakers all seemed to agree that race is crucial and maintenance of the diversity of the races is crucial. However, what if a person's race is irrelevant to their identity? If we were to make the normative assumption that race should not matter, where would we be?

The notion that "race matters" is known as race consciousness in legal circles. It is premised on the notion that race should be taken into account as a criteria for various programs so that disenfranchised groups of people can be helped in spite of societal racism. However, race consciousness upholds the same system of thought that it attempts to denigrate. It is contradictory and illusory in its attempts to break down racism.

Racism states that a particular ethnic or racial group is inferior, or always has certain characteristics. For example, blacks are not as smart as whites, or all Asians are great at math, all whites can't play sports, etc. Racist systems of thought operate from the assumption that all individuals of a targeted group share the stereotypical traits of that group, i.e. from a system of racist thought, it is impossible to evaluate the individual merits of each person. It ignores the rights, character, and potential of an individual. Under a racist system, there are no individuals; there are only "things", those members of the group.

Race consciousness ignores the unique experience that each individual has faced, and instead lumps all of the people of that ethnic or racial group together. Race consciousness still sees people as things belonging to a group, and not as individuals each with a unique experiences in the world.

Race consciousness is premised on similar assumptions even though its purported goals are different. If one assumes that race does matter, then the group is the one in need of special protection, because all people in that group have a similar background or experience. Race consciousness ignores the unique experience that each individual has faced, and instead lumps all of the people of that ethnic or racial group together. Race consciousness still sees people as things belonging to a group, and not as individuals each with a unique experiences in the world and with ties to other individuals and institutions that are not based on race or ethnicity. The framework and policies of race consciousness implicitly uphold racism. The devotion of a day to diversity and the different groups that make this school diverse similarly entrenches the notion that individuals are different not because of their own characteristics, but because of the group with which they are associated.

The 'race matters' argument is also premised on the belief that everyone is equal. If the world were perfect, all people would not be judged at all based on the race or ethnicity. Sadly, the world is not perfect. As law professor Derrick Bell might say, "we are not yet saved."

I would concede that race conscious policies are necessary to redress past discrimination, but they should be timebound. Policies such as affirmative action are necessary to level the playing field; the question is when the playing field is fair for all to participate. Race conscious policies are needed to force all of us to realize that everyone is equal and should be given an equal opportunity.

But at some point, we all have to return to the words of Martin Luther King Jr., and try to achieve a world where "people are judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Diversity Day is obviously important to help people understand the various cultures that our school is made of. But everyone in the Lexington High School community should think about how to achieve a colorblind society and really come together. The current focus on race and culture as the key determinant of individual worth must be questioned and replaced. We must address racism, but we should address it in a manner that will someday build a color-blind society.

-Steve Lehotsky

Names and Places 1995

-A/B-

Robert Abajian	Westfield State College
Ron Abrons	University of Iowa
Peter Agnes	Dartmouth College
Laura Aitken	Westfield State College
Lauren Albin	Babson College
Jonathan Andron	Harvard University
Daniel Archibald	Cornell University
Lolly Axley	Colby College
David Baker	Syracuse University
Lisa Baker	Hartwick College
Shant Baran	Boston University
Pam Barrette	Framingham State College
Alexander Barry	Savannah College of Art and Design
Sara M. Bartels	Florida Atlantic University
Danielle Becze	Westfield State University
Beth Bello	Merrimack College
Kristiana Bennett	University of Miami
Ryan Benoit	Johnson and Wales
Jennifer Berg	Universty of Virginia
Radika Bhaskar	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Ned Bjorkman	working
Johanna Bobrow	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Andrew Bock	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Jane Bond	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Julie Bonner	Claremont McKenna College
April Bovet	Wellesley College
Amy Boyle	Endicott College
Lucy Brank	Colorado College
T.J. Brearley	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Matt Briggs	New England Conservatory
Michael P. Broderick	Otterbein College
Blythe Brown	working
Jeni Brown	Boston College
Jennifer Burke	Merrimack College

-C-

Amanda Carbone	University of Connecticut
Frank Carlow	Williams College
Erin Carlson	Emory University
Steven Caron	Working at LHS Computer Center
Jennifer Cataldo	Syracuse University
Meg Catterall	University of New Hampshire
Christopher Cavatorta	University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth
Laura Chamberlain	Yale University
Jeffrey Chan	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
Michael Chan	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Timothy Chang	Stanford University
Alex Chansky	University of California at Berkeley
Kimberly Chase	Georgetown University
Andy Chen	Brandeis University
Jeffrey Chen	Bowdoin College
Tameika Clark	Temple University
Lacey Clarke	Babson College
Delilah Clement	Syracuse University
Sarah Clough	Boston University
James Cohen	New School for Social Research
Christa Cokorogianis	Merimack College
Kit Connolly	Colby College
Alyssa Cook	SUNY Binghamton
Stephanie Coplon	Bucknell University
Carolyn Coppe	New York University
Casey Corr	SUNY Albany
Andy Costello	Siena College
Valerie Crockett	Laboure
Andrea Cuccinello	Framingham State College
Josh Curtis	Northeastern University

-D/E/F-

John Dailey	Boston College
Becki Danchik	Union College
Francine Daveta	Ithica College / Hampshire College
Karen Delaney	Providence College
Sandi Denk	Renssellaer Polytechnical Institute
Alaina Devasto	Boston College
Erica Dorland	Lesley College
Dan Dubeau	Kenyon College
Tarah Dunn	Grinnell College
Offer Egozy	Yale University
William Milford Eisner	Dung University
Justine Federici	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Myella Figueroa- Diggs	Johnson C. Smith University
Faye Ruth Fisher	Hampshire College
Samuel Fisher	working
Tara Foley	Westfield State College
Andrew Fortmann	U.S. Naval Academy
Richard Fournier	Westfield State College
Owen Foye	Skidmore College
Adina Frazer	Skidmore College
Jon French	Taking a year off
Lee Fuoco	Kenyon College

-G/H/I-

Sudheer Gaddam	University of Massachusetts at Ameherst
Dominico Gallinelli	Bentley College
Carol Galloway	Syracuse University
Jessica Gillis	Fairfield University
Michael Gilman	University of Rhode Island
Christine Gindy	University of Vermont
Adam Goldman	New York University
Elizabeth Goldmann	Northwestern University
Jessica Golub	Vassar College
Heather Goss	Haverford College
Brian Greene	Boston University
Jack Gurman	Berklee College of Music
Melissa F. Hales	Ithica College
Samuel Handlin	Swarthmore College
Thor Hansen	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Jason Harris	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Daniel Hart	University of Miami
Jeremy Hartman	Dartmouth College
Jennifer Hartunian	Boston College
Noah Herman	University of Vermont
Thomas Higgins	Virginia Wesleyan College
Thomas Hipple	Union College
Gayle Holt	College of William and Mary
Claire Hopkins	University of Vermont
Michael Hotaling	Rhode Island College
Brian House	University of Rhode Island
Julie Howell	Endicott College
Nancy Hsiung	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Homer Hsu	Yale University
Daniel Hurley	Boston College
Jessica Hurt	Haverford College
Sean Irwin	Boston College

-J/K-

Crystal James	dance teacher / Middlesex
Nathan Jauvtis	Cornell University
Jerone Johnson	Fitchburg State College
Peter Jung	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Caroline Kasparian	Colby College
Karen Kelly	Boston College
Terence Kenney	Working
Maayan Keshet	Vassar College
Michael Kidney	Assumption College
Robin King	Colgate University
Justin Kinner	University of Maine at Farmington
Jasper Hayes Klien	Navy
Jana Lynn Kline	University of Cincinatti
Christine Ko	Cornell University
Brek Kohler	Wake Forest University
Brian Koning	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Tania Kouyoumdjian	Mount Ida College
Sriram Krishnamurthy	University of California at Berkeley
Matthew Kulin	Franklin and Marshall College
Angela Kung	Harvard University
Michelle Kung	Boston College

-L/M-

Beth Lager	Villanova University
Zoe Langosy	Massachusetts College of Art
Carin Lee	Tufts University
Jamie Lee	Wellesley College
Josie Lee	undecided
Sharon Lee	Harvard University
Elisha Leflore	Wellesley College
Matthew Lehar	Stanford University
Steven Lehotsky	Dartmouth College
Andrew Levine	Syracuse University
Grayson Levis	undecided
Noah Levy	Washington and Lee University
Sam Licorish	Boston University
Joanna Lisle	working
Amy K. Loder	Northeastern University
Lori LoTurco	Skidmore College
Brendan Loveday	working
Amy Lowenthal	University of Michigan at Ann Arbor

Names and Places 1995

Amy Lucas	Villanova University
Catherine Lunt	University of Deleware
Theresa Luongo	Quinnipiac College
Chang Hong Ly	Anna Maria College
Mallory MacDonald	College of the Holy Cross
Daniel MacLean	Colgate University
Junaid Malek	Tufts University
Naveen Malhotra	University of Illinois
Tarun Malhotra	Brandeis University
Ngisha Malone	Northeastern University
Subash Mani	University of Michigan at Ann Arbor
Jill Marble	Wheelock College
Allegra Martin	Williams College
Maria Natasha Martin	Moving back to England
Lisa Mason	University of Delaware
Bethany Massimilla	University of New Hampshire
Les McClaine	undecided
Jamie McDonald	Phillips Andover Academy
Molly McGirr	University of New Hampshire
Camille McGreggor	Smith College
Nathan McGuire	Virginia State University
Stephen McGuire	Morehouse College
Sarah McKenna	Providence College
Darlene Meehan	Boston University
Jessye Mehler	Cornell University
Kunal G. Mehra	Columbia University
Danielle Melanson	Westfield State College
Jason Miller	Ithica College
Shira Miller-Jacobs	Barnard College
David Mimno	Swarthmore College
Leo Molle	Texas Tech University
Michael Mouris	Sheepherding in Minnesota
Adam Moyseowicz	Trinity College
Gillian Mueller	Goucher College
Rupa Mukherjee	Dartmouth College
Patrick Murphy	The Citadel

-N/O/P-

Christopher Naughton	Westfield State College
Jonathan Newman	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Matt Nichols	Amherst College
Polina Nikolayev	University of Rhode Island
Charles Nuss	North Park College of Chicago
Michael O'Brien	undecided
Rachael O'Brien	undecided
Chris O'Connell	College of the Holy Cross
Christine Oberto	Simmons College
Matthew Olson	University of Rhode Island
Darren Orf	Indiana University
Peter Ouyang	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Lea Palladino	Westfield State College
Andrew Paone	Fordham University
Justin Perkins	Evergreen State College
Michael Piantedosi	Rochester Institute of Technology
John Porter	Merrimack College
Maia Proujansky-Bell	Skidmore College

-Q/R-

Ariel Quezada	University of Vermont
Miranda Quezada	Savannah College of Art and Design
Sarah Rahman	Brown University
John Ramsey	Princeton University
Christopher Randall	Seton Hall University
Alyssa Rayman-Read	Swarthmore College
Matt Renna	Boston University
Carlos Reyes	George Washington University
Mark Reynolds	College of the Holy Cross
Ella Rhee	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Paulo Ribeiro	Kenyon College
Suzanne Rommelfanger	Colgate University
Christopher Russo	waiting for Wentworth decision
Jeff Rutti	Otterbein College

-S-

Ekaporn Saktanaset	University of New Hampshire
Brad Samuels	Vassar College
Mali Sastri	Taking a year off
Jeffrey Saxonis	Framingham State College
Jennie Scaramelli	Fitchburg State College
Micah Schatz	Art Institute of Chicago
Matthew Schick	Oberlin College
Daniel Schulman	Middlesex Community College
Lisa Schwartz	Northeastern University
Kathryn Scott	Stonehill College
Adam Segal	George Washington University
Yukiko Sekino	Harvard University
Miriam Seldin	George Washington University
Salim Semy	Brandeis University
Aron Shapiro	Bates College
Judy Sheehy	University of New Hampshire
Grace Shieh	Harvard University
Daniel Shnidman	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Arlene Silva	Amherst College
Errol Silverman	Brandeis University
Erika Simmons	Mount Holyoke College
Steven Simon	Union College
Ansel Singer-Barnum	Davidson College
Jessica Smoler	Swarthmore College
Mary Solimon	College of the Holy Cross
Annelise Sorensen	Clemson College
Geertrui Spaepen	Harvard University
Daniel Spector	working
Helki Spidle	Wellesley College
Bobby St. Pierre	Saint Michael's College
Joanna Stravropoulos	Bates College
Mark Steere	Newbury College
Jenny Stieglitz	City Year
Anne Struble	Pomona College
Simone Sturm	taking a year off
Christina Suh	Boston College
Andrew Sung	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Daniel Swan	Stonehill College
Rebecca Sweder	University of Michigan at Ann Arbor

-T/U/V-

Lily Talakoub	McGill University
Jennifer Tansey	University of New Hampshire
Emily Theriault	LaFayette College
Lance Tinstman	University of Colorado at Boulder
Adam Toczylowski	Boston College
Caroline Tsai	Wellesley College
Shirling Tsai	Harvard University
Anne Tucker	University of Pennsylvania
Christopher Unkel	University of Michigan at Ann Arbor
Joshua Vacanti	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Eugene Valsky	University of Vermont
Daniel Vinton	University of Vermont
Gretchen Von Stetten	Ithica College

-W-

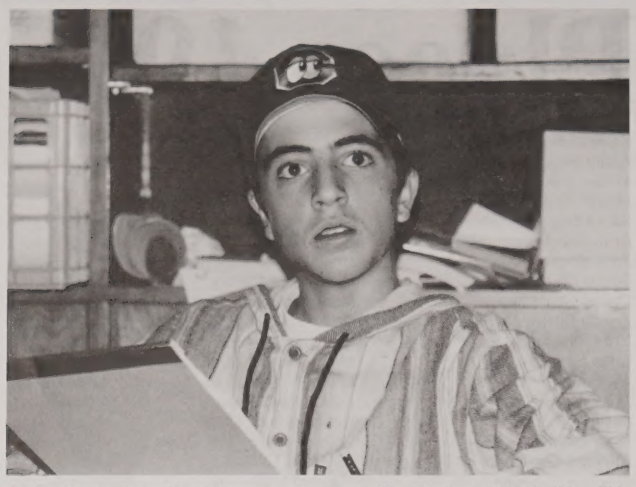
Courtney Walton	University of New Hampshire
Vivian Wang	Williams College
Dustin Ward	Northfield Mount Herman
Tia Washington	Blaines Cosmetology
Emily Weiland	University of Massachusetts at Lowell
Jonathan Weintraub	Arizona State University
Sarah Welch	Brown University
Leonardo Weller	attending college in Brazil
Katharine Westfall	Haverford College
Dana Whitney	University of Rhode Island
Leigh Widiger	Emory University
Maura Woessner	Union College
Jonas Woolverton	Vassar College
Bianca Wright	Trinity College
Jennifer Wright	Endicott College
Katrina Wright	Utica College
Ping-Cheng Wu	Renssellaer Polytechnical Institute

-Y/Z-

Cheng Ya-Cheng	Boston University
Jennifer Yee	Ithica College
Patrick Yee	University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Holly Young	Greenfield State College
Yun Yung	Amherst College
Andrew Zimmer	Williams College
Alex Zimmerman	Marist College
Armen Zohrabian	Wake Forest University
Hava Zucovsky	University of Israel

The *Musket* Staff Would Like to Congratulate the Class of 1995, and Wishes Each Graduate the Best of Luck.

The Musket made attempts to contact each gruadate about their plans for next year and regrets and errors that may gone unnoticed.



Senior Armen Zohrabian is temporarily stunned by the thought that this will be his last year at LHS.

photo from Musket file

Students Speak Out at Diversity Day

by
Erin Carlson

On May 11, 1995, the student organized Cultural Diversity Day struck a chord deep in the heart of Lexington High School. The day included Music, drama and a keynote speaker, but perhaps the most effective portion of the day was a student panel discussion on race.

"Racism has been institutionalized and comes from within" says senior Stephen McGuire. He adds, "We all have experienced the ramifications of a Eurocentric history. We haven't been exposed to the whole truth. We need to embrace the other players in this history. All of our minds have been enslaved."

Senior Alyssa Rayman-Read noticed that in Lexington, students are not exposed on a daily basis to people of differences, saying "We only get a limited view of how to see people." Senior Christina Suh also noted racism in Lexington. She commented that "sometimes [we] don't realize the subtle racism going on," including the segregation among the student body. She said, "Racism is not going to end here, but we have the potential to make some changes."

The second topic laid out for discussion was the role that the school should play in educating students about racism. Senior Dan MacLean believed that the high school should not play a role in eliminating the roots of racism but act as a mediator. He rationalized this view in that the "upbringing is the root" of the children's beliefs. "Children get a message from their parents," noted MacLean, "it's hard to denounce the parents, but we need a student body who believes in harmony to help each student on a one to one basis."

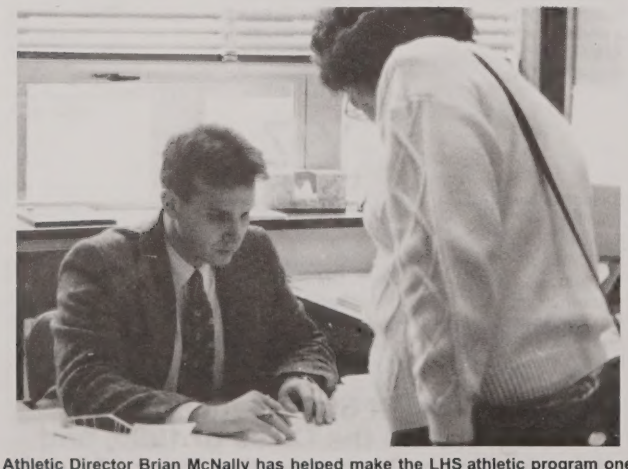
Junior Irene Tung deemed that eliminating racism is "consistent with the overall purpose [of high school]," as racism is "an issue that is going to confront each student." "The school should prepare us for it," Tung concluded. McGuire spoke of the need to be exposed to and to be able to "embrace and accept each other's cultures and learn about our own differences."

"Lexington has a lot of potential. Although the community has a problem, it can change only if people recognize that there is a problem."

-Senior Christina Suh

In reference to the violent incident that occurred at LHS earlier this year, Rayman-Reed asked the school to "stop being so reactionary, and deal with the issues in every day life." She argued that "[racism] ought to be a priority," as "each one of us has a role."

"Lexington has a lot of potential," concluded Suh, "although the community has a problem, it can change only if people recognize that there is a problem." Days like May 11 are the first step in a long road toward resolving many long-simmering issues in Lexington High School.



Athletic Director Brian McNally has helped make the LHS athletic program one of the best in the state.

photo by Josh Vacanti

Next Year's Officers Elected by Students

Elections

Continued from page 3

elections, however, concerns the political apathy of the people who vote in them. "A lot of people just think of the elections as a popularity contest," lamented Martinez-Tamayo.

Many students argue that voting during the "nasty, brutish and short" homeroom period gives way to Hobbesian tyranny rather than productive democracy. Either out of blatant indifference or limited time, some voters mark the first few names on the ballot without giving their choices much thought or consideration.

However, the Election Reform Bill, currently on the floor of the Student-Faculty Senate, could change all that.

The bill, introduced by graduating senior and Moderator Dan MacLean, would require students to vote in a designated center during their own free time (during the day, before school, or after school) should they choose to exercise their right to vote. Support for the idea has prevailed in the Senate, with the principal discussion now focusing on the details of the bill. Next year LHS could find itself another step closer to democracy.

The class officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively) for the 1995-1996 school year are as follows:

Class of 1996: Christopher Amar, Dave Myung, Jerry Titus, and Carolyn Glabe;

Class of 1997: Jed Berger, Lawrence Randolph, Amy Seaquist, and Janine Geller;

Class of 1998: Andy Bechtel, Maria Stavropoulos, Andrea Pawliczek, and Elizabeth Lupardo.

Next year's senate will be led by Moderator Margot Minardi who will be assisted by Secretary Monica Martinez-Tamayo. French teacher Karen Girondel was elected Assistant Moderator. Joining them as senior senators will be Christopher Amar, Cynthia Lin, Dave Eisner, Dave Myung, and Susie Kwon.

May 11 was a day devoted to diversity at LHS. The half-day presentation featured music, lectures and a forum on diversity issues at LHS.

photo by Josh Vacanti

LHS Dominates State History Fair

by
Steve Pawliczek

Lexington High School students recently achieved record success at the Massachusetts History Day Competition, with eight top winners proceeding to the National History Day Competition held at the University of Maryland at College Park in June.

The History Day Competition recognizes extraordinary student projects with reference to a particular theme. "Conflict and Compromise in History" was the theme for the Massachusetts History Competition, held at Springfield Technical Community College on a dreary spring Saturday.

Senior Jonas Woolverton received tremendous praise for his dramatic performance titled "A Black Soldier in Vietnam." Noteworthy for its poignancy and emotional resonance, his project eclipsed the other entrants and secured a first place award for Woolverton.

Lexington High School also swept the senior level of the historical paper division. Senior Mali Sastri received a first place commendation for her paper titled "Conflict and Compromise in the Kalahari." Junior Steve Pawliczek won a second place award for his work titled "Apportioning Compromise: Brown v. Board of Education ."

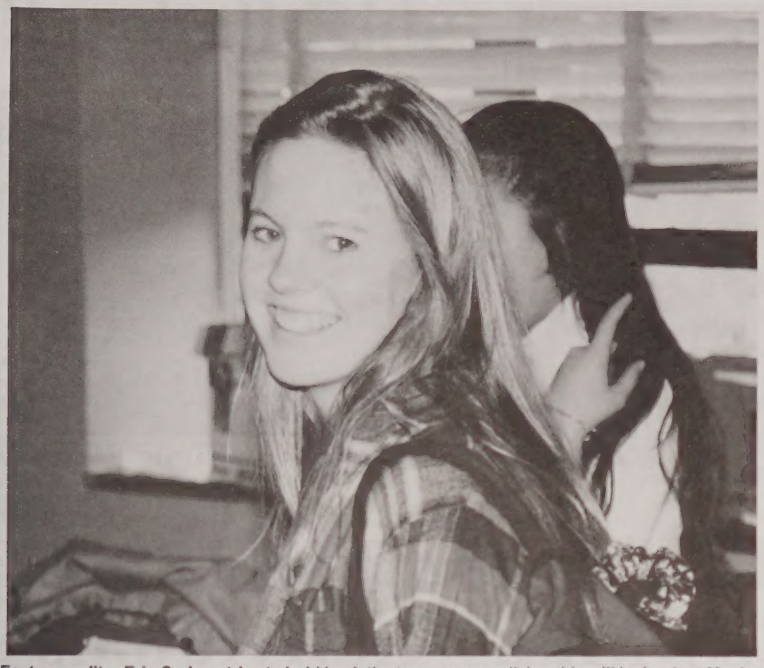
Sophomore Felicia Kuo received a first place award for her video "Tiananmen Square: The Struggle for Democracy." Her entry focused upon the 1989 protest for Chinese democracy at Tiananmen Square and its bloody conclusion. "We're Not Satisfied," a group media presentation submitted by sophomores Jessica Carlisle, Alison Kraley, Keegan Uhl and Mike Sackton, was also honored.

As these students prepare for the National History Day Competition, they can only hope to maintain their past level of success.

The commendation of these eight students is the culmination of a lengthy selection process that began with a local competition in February.

Throughout this process, entrants received assistance from faculty members Debra Johnston, Samuel Kafrissen and Richard Kollen. As these students prepare for the National History Day Competition, they can only hope to maintain their past level of success.

Wondering Where LHS Seniors are Headed?...
Turn to **Names and Places** *on pages 6 &7.*



Features editor Erin Carlson tries to hold back the tears upon realizing this will be her last *Musket* issue.

New School Schedule Conforms to 990 Hours

"990"

Continued from page 1

school year, with a 5.6 hour day, leaving enough time for 10 half-days.

Other, more radical proposals under consideration include semester-long courses and elimination of certain electives. Some of these alternatives have been tested at what are considered "cutting edge schools."

This "unfunded mandate" from the state has aroused resentment among much of the faculty. English teacher Peg Dyro summarized the opposition to the law by stating, "many teachers believe that simply increasing the number of hours of instruction will not directly improve the quality of education." She cited statistics, "demonstrating the strength of Lexington students despite the relatively meager number of hours of class time that they receive."

However, the response has not been uniformly negative. One teacher maintained that the increase in class time will, "force unimaginative teachers to come up with new and different techniques to fill the day."

"Thank the Hindu lords that I get to leave with free blocks and class breaks intact. In two years ... the LHS community will be begging to be in my boxers"

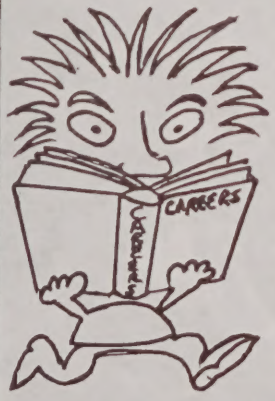
-Senior Kunal G. Mehra

Even some students have favored the new mandate. "In many classes by the end of the year we have only studied the first 300 pages of a 500 page book. Certainly more time will help remedy this problem," one junior noted. "Nothing bad can come of it," she concluded.

However, senior Kunal G. Mehra, is overjoyed that he is escaping the new state mandate. "Thank the Hindu lords that I get to leave with free blocks and class breaks intact. In two years, when the students are required to take 990 hours worth of classes, the LHS community will be begging to be in my boxers," he explained.

"Although on a personal level I can agree that the mandate may not be fun. I do think it will reap sizable benefits," concluded Senior Offer Egozy.

CAREER CHOICES: A SEMINAR



What should I study in college?

What career am I aiming for?

Will the career I choose be right for me?

What about different occupations?

Can I make a successful living doing what I really want to do?

Do I know what I really want to do?

What industry will I enjoy most?

This seminar is designed to help you through these decisions and more!

THE SIIMES INSTITUTE FOR CAREER CHOICE
617-322-9816 (ask for Allison)
(If you receive the answering machine, please leave a message, I ALWAYS return calls promptly; Thank you.)

RePlace Helps Troubled Teens

by
Leah Platt

Last week, the town meeting overwhelmingly voted to reinstate the town funding for youth services to Replace Incorporated. For the past twenty years, Replace has diligently served the Lexington community, offering a hotline, a drop-in center and counselors to the students of Lexington High and surrounding communities.

Last year, the town experimentally diverted its youth funds to other sources but fortunately, this year, it resumed its support for Replace.

The Replace drop-in center is located at 1912 Mass Ave on the right side of Hancock Church (the big stone church across from the green). The number for the hotline, which is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights, is 861-1233.

The staff members at Connection Hotline, the hotline associated with Replace, feel that people at the high school are unaware of their services. They hope to encourage more people to call when they need to talk about their problems. One staff member noted that "no problem is too small or petty. You don't need to be calling from the edge of a building in order to get attention. Because we are teens too, we know that sometimes little things can really get to you."

They emphasized that everyone has a hard day and one shouldn't be embarrassed to call. Maybe the problem is as small as parents nagging about school or annoying fights with your best friend.

One staff member joked that "your life doesn't need to mirror those Life Skills teen dramas in order to benefit from the Connection Hotline."

Another enthusiastic member stressed that "at the hotline, you can reach a sympathetic, well trained peer. Sometimes friends just don't understand or else they know you too well to make an objective judgment."

No matter what you want to talk about, Connection Hotline staff is there to listen, not to make judgments or give unwanted advice.

This summer, the hotline held ten weeks of training for their current staff so they could be fully informed to answer any questions and give referrals on topics ranging from drugs and suicide to sexual orientation.

They stress that they are "looking for new members who are interested in and dedicated to community service." Also, they emphasized that all calls and advice are completely confidential (which is the reason that all staff members have remained anonymous in this article).

The staff at Connection emphasize their "contribution to the health and well being of the entire Lexington Community." The drop-in center is open every day after school stocked with a new Coke machine and a big screen TV for hanging out with friends or doing homework. Also, in order to alleviate Friday night boredom, the staff members sponsor movie nights in the drop-in center open to the middle school and the high school.

"All we need is some sign of interest from the high school and we'll start planning."

-RePlace Staff Member

One staff member at Connection said, "we are looking forward to holding other Friday night activities like scavenger hunts or a murder mystery. All we need is some sign of interest from the high school and we'll start planning."

So far, the staff members report that the movie nights have averaged thirty to forty students and have featured such movie classics as "Reality Bites" and "The Mask".

Replace sincerely hopes that more high school students will become aware of and take advantage of their resources. They are dedicated to the concept of teens helping teens.

A dedicated staff member explained that "Replace started out as a place for me to help others. But now, it is also the place I go when I have a problem myself and I need support from people who care about me."

Students are beginning to empty their lockers as summer approaches.

photo from Musket file

Girls' Tennis Rolls to States

by
Dafna Hochman

In late March, optimistic coach Buzz Gillis told his Girls Tennis team that if they won the state championships he would take them to Florida. This incentive has definitely succeeded. For the first time since 1992, the team, boasting a league record of 14-4 and a close third place finish in the Middlesex League, will join the boys' team in the State Championships, scheduled to begin June 1. The girls will be the 8th seed in the tourney..

Tessa Randall, whose doubles finesse with partner Lily Talakoub has clinched many close matches, is "excited about the prospects of being in the states." "I think that we have a good chance of winning the first few rounds," continued Randall, "especially because most of the other leagues do not have Winchesters or Readings." Team mate and co-captain Rebecca Sweder agrees. "In addition, I think we have this league stacked for many more years to come."

Sweder is referring to the super sophomores who have filled the ranks of the varsity throughout much of the season. The three singles spots have been played most consistently by sophomores Arina Zhorabian, Taryn Balducct, and Ellen Humphrey, respectively. Coach Gillis attributes much of the success this year to the prowess and consistency of the singles players as "we can always count on at least two out of three wins."

In addition, the doubles teams are no slackers. The combined forces of Randall and Talakoub , Becki Danchik and Rebecca Sweder, and Beth Lager and Carin Lee have ensured sweet victory on many occasions. Memorable victories have included the tie-breaker win for Randall/Talakoub against Burlington, and Sweder/Danchik's close match against Belmont. Additionally, the J.V. consisting of Dalia Hochman , Dafna Hochman, Kim Lee, Brooke Kotzen, Leela Ramnath, Amber Moore, and Katie Kurtz have been able to frequently play varsity matches, the 6-0, 6-1 results reflecting the depth and the future of the team.

Although everyone is crossing their fingers hoping to advance in the states, each player is also satisfied with her achievements thus far. "Even if we do not make it to Florida," said Humphrey, "we are definitely winners."

The girls' tennis team has walked away from the competition this year as it cruised to a very succesful season.

photo from Musket *file*

The girls' lacrosse team has been impressive this year as it heads into the postseason eyeing a championship.

photo from Musket *file*

Track and Field Led by Many Individuals

TRACK

Continued from page 12

major force at the state level as well. He pole vaulted 13 feet 6 inches, a personal record, and won the state coaches meet to demonstrate that he is a vaulter to be reckoned with.

An outdoor track meet is composed of 16 different events. If a team wants do well it must have not only a variety of talent but remarkable depth as well. The junior trio of Dave Lee, Jeff Needham, and Chi Chen Wen contributed tremendously to Lexington's depth in the Discus and Shot put. Lee and Needham qualified for states with best throws of 128' and 133' respectively.

Baseball player turned track star Shapiro also contributed a great deal to the team's depth. He threw the javelin, high-jumped, ran the 100 meter dash, and ran a leg on the 4X100 relay. The sprinting crew also included junior Mark Sun and four sophomore sensations: Todd Rosenfield, and newcomers Marvin Amato, Seth Robertson, and Anthony Clayborne.

Sophomore Dow-Ben Chi also joined the spring crew late in the season and performed remarkably well in a short period of time. Lexington's formidable javelin crew was rounded out by senior Pat Murphy who had a tremendous season backing up Jauvits and Shapiro.

Junior Ash Weaver became a force to contend with in his specialty, the 300 hurdles, racking up first and second place finishes and ending the season with an impressive personal best time of 44.9 seconds. Weaver also performed solidly in the 110 high hurdles backing up Reynolds. Though bothered by illness and injury throughout the season captain Josh Curtis remained a dominant force in the distance events.

"The 1995 season has been tremendous for the track team. We competed very well given the seniors we lost."

-Senior
Aron Shapiro

The highlight of his shortened season cam against Reading, when, running an 800 he posted a phenomenal, career best time of 2:07. Juniors Phil Oliff and Mike Hemond, and sophomore Jake Kissel teamed up in the 800 to back up Curtis when he wasn't injured and to fill the hole left by him when he was. Junior Dave Myung became a force in the mile, shattering the 5 minute barrier by running an extremely impressive 4:59.

The freshman-sophomore-junior combination of Jerome Kirkpatrick, Aaron Adler, John-Paul Mahoney had a fantastic season in the two mile. The trio finished with personal best times of 10:53, 10:56, and 10:53 respectively.

At the outset of the season Andrew Richards looked to be the leader of a talented middle distance crew. In the first meet of the season Richards streaked to a league and season best time of 52.3 seconds for a quarter mile. About a week later he twisted his ankle and was lost for nearly a month.

Fortunately, junior Max Wilson, sophomore Tim Calvin, and Freshman Steve Kerr were there to fill the gap. Wilson emerged as dominant force not only in the quarter mile, in which he achieved a season best of 53.9, but also in the triple jump (season best 39'5"). Calvin was also able to contribute in the triple jump with a best jump of 38 feet.

Shapiro concluded that, "the 1995 season has been tremendous for the track team. We competed very well given the seniors we lost."

The girls' track and field team recently finished 12th at the State Championships at Bridgewater State College.

photo by Jay Premack

Baseball Rolls On to State Tourney

Baseball

Continued from page 11

tom of the sixth with a single, and was moved over to second on a groundout. Zimmerman then stepped up and knocked in Kohler with a clutch single.

The tension was mounting as freshman right fielder Eric Arm strong strode to the plate to face the Marauder's best pitcher, Doug Connelly. If he was nervous about the confrontation, Armstrong sure didn't know it, blasting a game tying two run triple.

Later, in the bottom of the seventh, Brek Kohler blasted a 400 foot drive that gave the Minutemen the victory, an d a spot in the state tournament.

"We got the monkey off of our backs with this one, " proclaimed O'Grady "this was a big, big win for us."

As the Minutemen head into the state tourney, they will be eager to show their opponents the team that won seven in a row, a team that has the ability to match up with any in the state.

Baseball Rides into Tourney

by
J.R. Rudman and
Matt Finkelman

This year's L.H.S. baseball season could easily be compared to a roller coaster ride: it gave us many ups and downs, it has thrills and chills, and sometimes it made us sick to our stomachs. The crazy thing is, the ride isn't over by a long shot.

The L.H.S. Minuntemen team started out their season by winning their first seven games, and garnering a record that included them as one of the top 20 teams in the state. Unfortunately, their unblemished record would not last long. The team lost junior Middlesex League All-Star Scott Perry to a back injury and a sharp slide for the Minutemen began. Perry was the team 's leading hitter at the time of his injury, and one of the team's leading hitter at the time of his injury, and one of the team's best pitchers. Coach Tom O'Grady had said previously that he knew that "if we lose a key producer like Scott, it will really hurt the team in more ways than one." In this O'Grady was correct, as the Minutemen went on a four game losing slide. This slide was also a result of their accomplishments. Because of their hot start, the Minutemen were facing the opposition's best pitching, players like Burlington's Sean McGowan and Stoneham's Peter Fisher, both of whom may wind up in a major league uniform somewhere down the line.

However, the Minutemen hung tough, and found new players who could contribute while the more experienced ones such as Perry, and senior All-Star Brek Kohler, were nursing injuries. One of these discoveries was sophomore pitching sensation Bobby Nasson. Nasson provided some crucial innings throughout the season, making a name for himself in the process. Junior Matt Kishlansky was another unheralded player who contributed greatly this year. Kishlansky currently leads the team in hitting and has a 9 game hitting streak.

Excellent efforts and leadership from seniors Dan Hurley, Alex Zimmerman, Jamie MacDonald, Jeremy Hartman, and team captain Chris O'Connell, allowed the Minutemen to go into their late season match-up with Belmont needing only a single victory to ensure them a berth in the MIAA state baseball tournament - a feat that had not been accomplished in two years. Perry was back on the mound for the Minutemen, and though he was a little wild in the first couple of innings, he eventually settled down. Offensively, despite junior Adam Fisher's blast over the right field fence in the third inning, Lexington saw themselves facing a 4-3 deficit. The Marauders then proceeded to add two more runs to the board going into the sixth, driving Perry from the game. The Minutemen refused to stop fighting and came back big with their bats. Kohler led off the bot-

Baseball
Continued on page 10

The baseball team has swung for the fences this year, but has had to rely on the strength of its pitchers.

photo from Musket *file*

Senior Darlene Meehan is a big reason the softball team has done as well as it has this season.

photo by Jay Premack

Softball Team Gets Ready for Postseason

by
Stefanie Berman

While the lights never did turn on during the night game last Tuesday in Burlington, the Lexington Softball team was on from the start. With a tight 3-1 win, the LHS team squeaked by and became the sixth spring sports team to qualify for tournament play.

For the seventh straight year, the softball team is headed into post season action. The tournament finds the Maids playing their best softball of the season, ending the year on three straight wins to finish with a 10-8 record.

With three games left in the season, the Minutemaids, posting a 7-8 record needed to win two of the three to earn a berth in the tournament.

The Belmont game was an expected win and the team succeeded in overtaking the 2-12 Mauraders. However, against a team as weak as Belmont, the Lexington was only able to manufacture three runs on two hits.

Things were looking unstable at best as Lexington prepared to face two teams that they had previously dropped games to, Burlington and Melrose.

The first Burlington game went into eleven innings before the Red Devils gained the winning runs. However, Lexington was not to put up with any extra inning drama when the two teams met again. The Lexington team threatened throughout the early innings, but as the top of the sixth began neither team had posted a run.

"Keep on playing tough and something will slip through."

-Coach Karen Boudreau

"If you keep on making good contact like you have been, they're going to make a mistake sometime," urged Coach Karen Boudreau throughout the game. "Keep on playing tough and something will slip through."

In the top of the sixth, Boudreau's prophesy was realized. With two outs and Pawliczek on third, the Burlington second baseman fumbled a ground ball and the freshman starter crossed home plate to put Lexington in the lead.

In the seventh, the Maids scored two more on other Burlington errors, and then ran out in the bottom half of the inning to defend their lead, only three outs away from a tournament berth.

Thanks to an amazing throw from right fielder Christine Oberto to peg a runner at second, the lead was preseved and the victory was sealed.

The Melrose game featured equally exciting play from the invigorated Lexington team.

Melrose, needing the win to qualify for post season play was stifled by solid Lexington defense and pitching of sophomore Lindsay Bonner.

With the tournament schedule still unknown, the LHS squad continues to practice, hoping to get a chance to prove themselves as a late blooming success.

Junior Kim Barnes leaps to new heights, although the girls' track and field has had a disappointing season.

photo by Jay Premack

Minutemaids Hope to Go Out with a Bang

by
Jason Miller

Boasting its best record in recent years at 10-5-1, the girls' lacrosse team begins its postseason on Tuesday with a hungry attack, an intense defense, and a hot goaltender. Leading coach Ellen Vera's hardball brigade are ten seniors looking to end their careers with a bang.

Defnsively, Lexington is led by Globe All-Scholastic Jessica Hurt and co-captain Vivian Wang. Enforcer Meg Catterall lined up opposite Hurt at D-wing for all 16 games. and led all Dual County League defenders in points. Vera's exceedingly deep squad boasts the talents of seniors Lolly Axley and Theresa Luong, underused but important cogs of the team.

Finishing this season winning four of their final six games, the Minutemaids were blessed with superior golatending, courtesy of senior Maura Woessner. "Maura's been a definite force for us," praises Catterall.

Lexington's high octane offense is led by three league all-stars and a flashy omission named Amanda Mahoney. All with over forty points, Vera's athletic and accurate offensive arsenal lit up opposing defnses every game. Center Lacey Clarke, co-captaion Caroline Kasparian, eading scorer Lauren Kidney, and Mahoney were probably the most feared offense in the Dual County Leage. Heating up lately have been juniors Lisa Rycroft and Anna Riera, who along with seniors Emily Theriault and Joanna Stavropoulous nicely compliment the "big four."

"We have to play well as a team to win.," said Vera. "We've had superb passing and the defense has played excellently." If the steamroller we know as our girls lacrosse team keeps up their winning ways, there may be some new trophies in the LHS hallway.

Regardless of how things turn out, the 1995 season was an aswesom sucess. "We're ready to cdonquer!" concludes Kideney.

The boys' track and field team has leapt to an impressive season which included three top five finishers at the State Championships.

photo from Musket *file*

Boys' Track & Field Copes with Losses

by
Phil Oliff and Dave Myung

Recently, some members of the boys' track team had something to smile about. At the Class A State Championships held at Bridgewater State College on May 28, Lexington had three individuals finish in the top five of their respective events. Dave Lee hurled the discus 128'2" to finish third in the state, Aron Shapiro threw the javelin 161'2" to finish fifth, and Nathan Jauvtis pole vaulted to a height of 12'6" for a second place finish.

"I'm thrilled with the results at states. Although the team didn't fare too well, we showed that Lexington has a lot of superb athletes," Shapiro exclaimed.

However, the team as a whole has not been one of prolific superstars which they were a year ago. The Lexington High School boys' outdoor track squad lost many of its most feared athletes including "The Big Three" Johann Jack, Lowell Ladd, and Gregoire Landel, to graduation last June.

They then lost their longtime coach Arthur Dulong to an Assistant Principal's position over the summer. Despite these losses, however, the team still is a major factor in the Middlesex League, having compiled a stellar 7-2 season.

Entering the '95 campaign, the team was somewhat unsure of its capabilities and unsure of how it could perform. It was composed of a great deal of newcomers and many inexperienced athletes. Leading the young crew was a pair of new coaches, Phil Crosby and Calvin Berling, certainly no strangers to track, but occupying their positions for the firs time as coaching partners of the boys' outdoor team.

"Although the team didn't fare well [at the State Meet] we showed that Lexington has a lot of superb athletes."

-Senior
Aron Shapiro

Yet from the first meet, an inspiring 70-66 victory over Woburn, the squad was able to fend off the notion their youth was a liability. As the season progressed, inexperience turned to confidence. Senior leaders stepped forward and took charge inspiring younger athletes to strive for victory. The result is evident in the remarkable achievements continually put forth by athletes in every event.

Without a doubt, the team could not have had nearly as successful a season without the remarkable exploits of senior captains Mark Reynolds and Nathan Jauvtis. Reynolds, a quiet, amiable captain led by example. He dominated the league in three events, going undefeated in the 110 meter high hurdles with a league best time of 15.6 seconds, and nearly going undefeated in the long jump (season best of 20') and the high jump (season best 6'3").

Jauvtis, a boisterous and lively leader and a phenomenal athlete made his mark on the league as well. He proved to be extremely versatile, performing well in every event he was asked to participate in. He threw the javelin 156 feet, ran 100 meter dash in 11.6 seconds, long jumped 19 feet 8 inches, and played a key role in the 4X100 relay.

In all, Jauvits qualified for state competition in five different events, a rare feat in track and field. Beyond wreaking havoc in league competition, Jauvits proved to be a

TRACK, page 10

Boys' Tennis Wins League Championship

by
Carlos Reyes

Senior Co-captain Carlos Reyes embraced Coach Mechem after junior Nick Bartlett won the third and decisive point at third singles with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Burlington's David Colby. With this win, Lexington achieved the undisputed title of Middlesex League Champion.

As true all season, both doubles' teams were the automatic wins against Burlington. First doubles team John Plumb and Bryant Lee finished their match, breezing in straight sets. As usual, Lexington's "Dream Team" of co-captain Andrew Zimmer and "Steady" Owen Patrick won their match without breaking a sweat. Zimmer and Patrick finished the season undefeated in Middlesex competition at 16-0, a feat not accomplished since the mid l980's.

Super sophomore Fabien Rabanal pulled even with Burlington's #2 Seth Ferracane 6-4, 2-6, but lost in the 3rd set 6-4.

After losing the first set to Burlington superstar Dennis Boden, 6-0 in about fifteen minutes, Carlos Reyes knew that "This wasn't how it was supposed to happen." Carlos did battle and win the second 7-5. However, 8 points away from defeat Boden the Burlington player dug out of the hole and won the match 6-4. Howev er, Lexington had already won the match as Bartlett defeated his opponent.

Knowing that Lexington still had two more league matches to go, the boys knew they had won nothing yet.

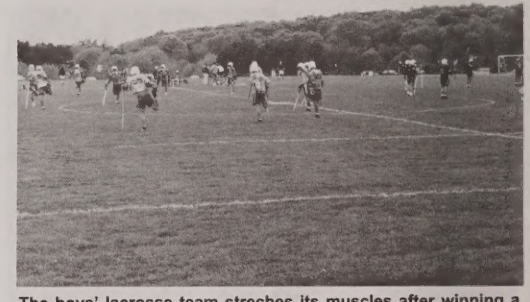
Lexington had easy 5-0 wins over Stoneham and Melrose, completing the dream. For the first time in seven years the LHS boy's tennis team was alone atop the Middlesex League.

"Winning the league title makes it all worthwhile."

-Senior co-captain
Andrew Zimmer

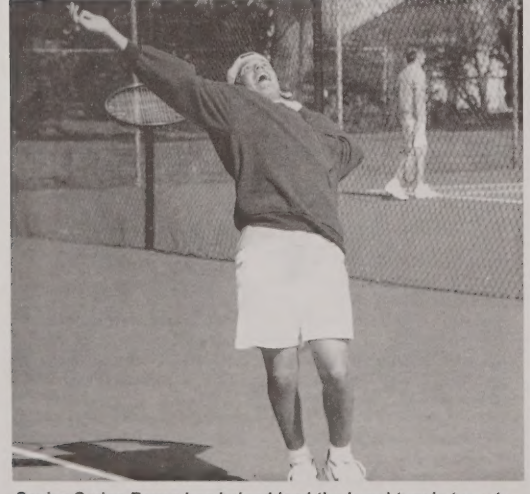
Jon Plumb and Bryant Lee rtepresented Lexington in the Division 1 North Sectional Finals, playing Josh Bloom and Josh Beer from Newton South. The Lexington contingent was cheering after their Gold Team won the first set 6-2. However, after loosening up Bloom and Beer took the 2nd and 3rd sets, 6-3, 6-4.

"Winning the league title makes it all worthwhile," Zimmer said.



The boys' lacrosse team streches its muscles after winning a birth in postseason play.

photo from Musket *file*



Senior Carlos Reyes has helped lead the boys' tennis team to first place in the Middlesex League.

photo by Jay Premack

VARSITY SCOREBOARD

Year End Wrap-Up

Fall		Golf	4-5
Cross Country		Soccer	
Boys'	3-6	*Boys'*	5-8-5
Girls'	6-3	*Girls'*	2-14-2
Field Hockey	11-3-4	*Girls'* Swimming	8-0
Football	3-7	Volleyball	12-6
Winter		Indoor Track	
Basketball		*Boys'*	5-4
Boys'	10-10	*Girls'*	5-4
Girls'	17-5	*Boys'* Swimming	7-0
Hockey	3-15	Wrestling	16-5
Spring		Tennis	
Baseball	10-10	*Boys'*	17-1
Lacrosse		*Girls'*	14-4
Boys'	7-7	Track & Field	
Girls'	10-5-1	*Boys'*	7-2
Softball	10-8	*Girls'*	4-5